

Small Group Discussion Questions Beaufort County

What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Using NWEA's MAP assessment for more timely detailed assessment to drive instruction.
- Educating greater community on need of schools (Money, Academic issues, Diversity, Economic impact
- Improving communication both ways
- Increase early childhood program
- Strong pre-K program that needs to be expanded.
- Dual credit and articulation programs in place
- Strong technology plan
- Strong facilities program
- Every newborn presented with a book
- Pre-K at most schools if not all
- Reading recovery (1st grade)
- Excels program
- After school programs
- Ronald McDonald Van
- Public libraries
- School improvement council
- PTO
- Increase Pre-K programs
- Identify the changing demographic and provide diagnostic placement assessment tools
- Incentives for teachers-recruitment bonus, proficient development for learning differences.
- More pre-K, retain in early grades , develop alt. ed., move away from social promotion
- Offer after school programs and civic organizations (ss, too)
- Tying sports programs to academic success
- Church, Faith based programs

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Loss of state funding-funding formulas
- Huge growth (diverse) infrastructure impact
- Budget approval (cycle creates challenges to recruitment / hiring of qualified staff.
- Employee incentives (lack of)
- New state funding formula
- Retention of teachers
- Parental involvement and responsibility
- Disconnect between the practical and the political
- Communication between school and parents
- Communication between district and school
- Communication between district and parents
- Communication between state and district
- Homework standards
- State funding
- ESOL population
- Teacher quality
- Funding, better diagnostic assessment, commitment to and funding for strong leaders/ teachers, uncertainty of state revenue
- Parents working (both)
- Single parent families
- Lack of resources including technology
- Peer pressure

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Public/ Private Partnerships
- Capitalize on retirement community – mentoring, tutoring
- Community education – needs, issues
- Chamber Golden Apple Program
- Continue to advocate and to educate the public
- Find ways to bridge the gaps between various groups in the community
-ad lib
- increase communication
- parent education
- value the role of the teacher
- character education
- schools to be more student centered

- focus on student who, what they need, where, when
- vote...know the issues and candidates
- respect cultural differences
- learn English language
- join civic groups; be active in community
- demand statewide understanding (and action!) for local issues, esp. re: SDE regs and testing>

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.